Rs. 1 crores to Rs. 5 crores. All these recommendations would assist in ensuring that the essential medicines are available at reasonable prices.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a new Pharmaceutical Policy is likely to be announced shortly. However, there is no practice of having an agreement with manufacturers to fix the prices of life saving and other drugs.

Demand of chemical fertilizers

†2610. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been assessed that during the current year, the supply of chemical fertilizers would be less in comparison to demand thereof;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and assessment with regard to quantity of demand and supply thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the gap between demand and supply would impact the prices of chemical fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the assessment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present urea is only fertilizer which is under partial distribution control of the Government of India and its availability is ensured at the State level. All other fertilizers are decontrolled and their availability depends on the market forces of demand and supply. The table below gives the details of demand and supply of major fertilizers and expected availability during the current year:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Qty. in lakh MTs)

	Season	Demand	Availability
UREA	**Kharif 2005**	114.39	116.20
	Rabi 2005-06	119.86	127.23*
DAP	**Kharif 2005**	33.45	36.81
	Rabi 2005-06	44.61	46.29*
MOP	**Kharif 2005**	13.89	18.82
	Rabi 2005-06	14.99	22.73*

* Estimated availability

(c) and (d) Question does not arise, Sir.

Sales promotion by pharma companies

2611. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that pharma companies are spending huge amounts on their sales promotion; and

(b) what are the details of promotional expenditure of the top ten pharma companies for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Prices of Scheduled drugs and formulations based thereon are fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of para 7 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95). A price of a Scheduled formulation is fixed by allowing Maximum Allowable Post Manufacturing Expenses (MAPE) @ of 100% on ex-factory cost for indigenously manufactured Scheduled formulations and upto 50% of the landed cost for imported Scheduled formulations. The trade margin to retailers in respect of Scheduled